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ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1709898

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

HAROLD A. DVORACHEK

Group Art Unit:

Unknown 7

Serial No. 09/727,166

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filing date assigned: December 1, 2000

JAN 2 3 2001 **OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

For: ROTARY CONTACT STRUCTURES AND)

CUTTING ELEMENTS

Box: PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

PETITION TO ACCORD APPLICATION FILING DATE OF NOVEMBER 28, 2000 UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10 (d)

Applicant respectfully petitions to accord an earlier filing date, of November 28, 2000, to this application. The application was deposited on November 28, 2000 with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee", with Express Mail label No. EI277423417US. This application as filed included a Certificate of Express mailing, dated November 28, 2000 and signed by the undersigned (Exhibit A). The "Express Mail" mailing label was lost by the USPS and the information of this Express Mail item is missing from the computer USPS Track/Confirm System (Exhibit B), so a corrected filing date under CFR 37§1.10 (d) is respectfully requested.

This petition is being filed promptly after the undersigned became aware of the erroneously accorded filing date for this application. The undersigned declares that she compiled the application materials on November 28, 2000, as can be seen from the attached time entry sheet (Exhibit C). Then I placed the application materials into an envelope addressed to the USPTO and bearing the Express Mail label number EI277423417US, signed the Certificate of Express mailing showing the Express Mail label number EI277423417US, dated the certificate, sealed the envelope, and had it timely delivered to the United States Postal Service facility with ZIP 60603 by 3 p.m. on November 28, 2000, for mailing via Express Mail to the USPTO. Then, according to Chapman and Cutler procedure, the date of deposit with the USPS by Express Mail was promptly docketed on the same date, in our Patent Docket System as the application filing date of November 28, 2000 (Exhibit D). However, the return self-addressed post card (Exhibit E), showing the Express Mail label number EI277423417US, was stamped by the USPTO as filed only on December 1, 2000.

Upon receipt of the return post card with erroneous filing date, the undersigned undertook an investigation. I found that the application apparently was accorded a filing date based on the date of arrival at the USPTO, because the customer copy of the Express mail label has not been received by the undersigned office, and any information of this Express mail package is missing from the USPS tracking system, as indicated by the enclosed printout of the USPS Track/Confirm system (Exhibit B).

However, the above application was deposited at USPS station 60603 concurrently with an application by the same inventor, Attorney Docket number 1709906 (later accorded Serial Number 09/726,761), bearing an Express Mail label EI277423329US. The customer copy of the Express Mail label EI277423329US returned by the USPS, shows that the "DATE IN" information was erroneously omitted by the USPS. A true copy of this Express Mail label EI277423329US is enclosed as Exhibit F. The enclosed printout of the USPS Track/Confirm system, Exhibit G, shows that the application was lost between the USPS station 60603, where both applications were originally deposited on November 28, 2000, and USPS station 60607 in Chicago, where the mail was logged on November 30, 2000. The undersigned inquired of USPS station 60603, where the application was originally deposited, and was told that the Service experienced a backlog because of heavy snowfall in Chicago area on November 26-28. The application SN 09/726,761 was finally delivered to the USPTO at 6:38 a.m. on December 1, 2000, and was also accorded the filing date of December 1, 2000. It can be concluded that, being deposited with the USPS at the same time, this application SN 09/727,166 and the concurrently mailed application SN 09/726,761 were delivered to the USPTO also at the same time. Therefore, the filing date accorded to this application was apparently the date of delivery, and not the date when the application was deposited with the USPS as Express Mail according to the CFR 37 § 1.10 (a).

Therefore, the date accorded to this application should be changed to the date when the application was deposited with the USPS, Chicago station 60603, as Express Mail, as established by an Express Mail Certificate and the evidence of improper handling by the USPS, under CFR 37 § 1.10 (d).

Please accord a corrected filing date of November 28, 2000 to this application.

Attached herewith as Exhibits are true copies of the following documents:

A- Express Mail Certificate showing the filing date of November 28, 2000 in accordance with C.F.R 37 §1.10;

B- A computer screen printout of the USPS Track/Confirm System page, showing that there is no record of a mail item with the Express Mail label number EI277423417US.

C- My handwritten time sheet for November 28, 2000, showing that 3.5 hours were spent on preparation and filing of this application, our matter No. 1709898, and a computer printout of my time as entered in the firm's time keeping system, showing my time spent on this new patent application, our matter number 1709898.

D- A printout of the Patent Docket Case Information Sheet showing the filing date of November 28, 2000 as entered on November 28, 2000 in the Chapman and Cutler Patent Docket System for the application Matter No. 1709898 (the serial number 09/727,166 was entered later upon receipt of the return post card);

E- Return post card stamped December 1, 2000, indicating the Express Mail label number EI277423417US;

F- Customer copy of Express Mail label EI277423329US for the concurrently filed application SN 09/726,761, Attorney Docket No. 1709906; and

G- A computer screen printout of the USPS Track/Confirm system showing that the item with the Express Mail label number EI277423329US was delivered to the USPTO at 6:38 a.m. on December 1, 2000, but was still in Chicago on November 30, at USPS office 60607, although if had been deposited at station 60603 on November 28, 2000.

Acknowledgement that the application is assigned a new filing date of November 28, 2000 is respectfully requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any petition fee in connection with this communication to our Deposit Account no. 50-0305.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilia I. Safonov Patent Agent,

Reg. No. 45,967

Date: January 22, 2001 CHAPMAN AND CUTLER 111 West Monroe Street Chicago, Illinois 60603 (312) 845-3412



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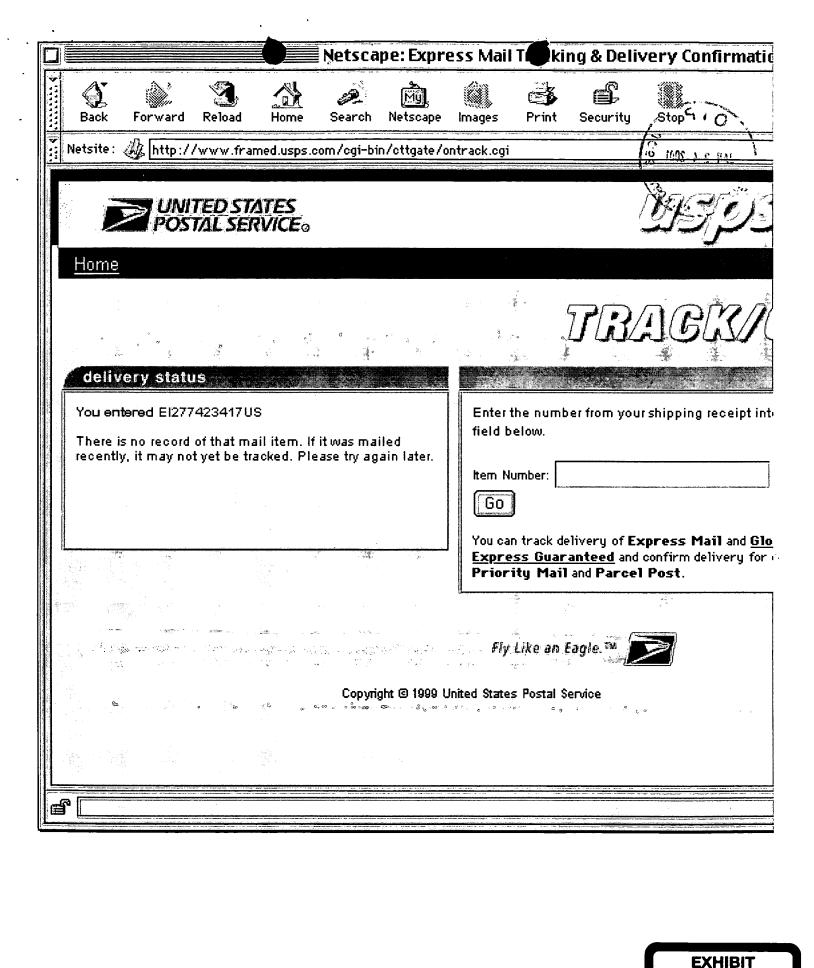
OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Express Mail Label Number: EI277423417

Date of Deposit: November 28, 2000

I hereby certify that the attached documents are being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

	Lilia I. Safonov
	(Typed or printed name of person
	mailing paper or fee)
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Application (TM/ITU/PAT) Office Action Response () Specimens 8 & 15 Affidavit / Fee to Deposit Account / Renewal Application Cover Letter / Statement of Use / Request for Extension of Maintenance Fee Recordal Documents Other (specify) Small Cuffy Statement
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Applicant Havolo A. Avoracher
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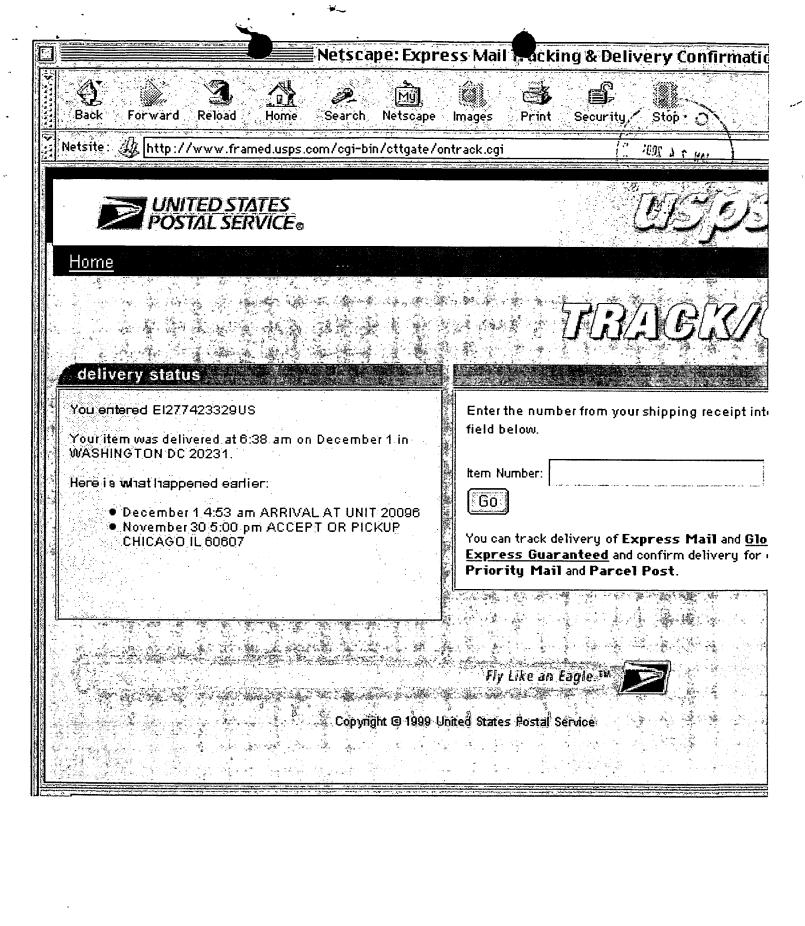
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